

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims with markups in accordance with revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

Please amend Claim 1.

Please cancel Claims 8-15.

Please add Claims 16-24.

1. (currently amended) A conductive coil contact member having at least one tapered end consisting of a plurality of turns of coil wire having a progressively smaller coil radius toward a free end thereof, wherein:
said coil wire comprises a core wire and at least one ~~highly~~ electrically conductive layer formed over said core wire, a last turn of said coil wire at said free end having a smaller coil radius than would be possible by coiling said coil wire including said core wire and an electrically conductive layer.
2. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 1, where a plurality of layers are formed over said core wire, said layers including at least one highly electrically conductive layer and at least one layer having a favorable mechanical property.
3. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 2, where said highly electrically conductive layer is made of a member selected from a group consisting of silver, silver alloy, copper and copper alloy.
4. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 2, where said layer having a favorable mechanical property is essentially made of nickel.
5. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 2, where said layers further include an outer layer made of a member selected from gold, gold alloy, rhodium and rhodium alloy.
6. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 2, where said core wire is made of steel.

7. (original) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 1, where said layer continuously extends between adjacent turns of said coil wire.

8.-15. (canceled)

16. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member comprising a coil wire formed into a coil having at least one tapered end consisting of a plurality of turns of said coil wire having a progressively smaller coil radius toward a free end thereof, comprising:

coiling a core wire into a coil in such a manner that a last turn of said free end is given with a substantially smallest possible radius for a given wire diameter of said core wire; and

forming an electrically conductive layer over said core wire at least at said free end so as to increase a diameter of said coil wire, said increased coil wire diameter being substantially greater than would be possible for said coil wire to be coiled and given with said smallest possible radius.

17. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member according to claim 16, where a plurality of layers are formed over said core wire, said layers including at least one highly electrically conductive layer and at least one layer having a favorable mechanical property.

18. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member according to claim 17, where said highly electrically conductive layer is made of a member selected from a group consisting of silver, silver alloy, copper and copper alloy.

19. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member according to claim 17, where said layer having a favorable mechanical property is essentially made of nickel.

20. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member according to claim 17, where said layers further include an outer layer made of a member selected from gold, gold alloy, rhodium and rhodium alloy.

21. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member according to claim 17, where said core wire is made of steel.
22. (new) A method of making a conductive coil contact member according to claim 16, where said layer continuously extends between adjacent turns of said coil wire.
23. (new) A conductive coil contact member having at least one tapered end consisting of a plurality of turns of coil wire having a progressively smaller coil radius toward a free end thereof, wherein:
- said coil wire includes a core wire and at least one electrically conductive layer formed over said core wire after said core wire has been coiled to a prescribed shape, a last turn of said coil wire at said free end having as small a coil radius as possible for the diameter of said core wire.
24. (new) A conductive coil contact member according to claim 23, wherein the prescribed shape is a conical shape.